



Connect Nevada Broadband Hero Award

Introduction:

As part of the Connect Nevada Summit, a Broadband Hero Award will be awarded. The Connect Nevada Summit will be held November 18, 2013 at the Joe Crowley Student Union at The University of Nevada, Reno. Individuals and organizations will be acknowledged for their efforts in bettering Nevada's broadband internet use in a variety of ways.

Nominees: The awards are presented to the individual, organization, educational institution, government agency, or business that has successfully used broadband technology to increase broadband access, adoption, and/or use in the Nevada. The award winner successfully uses broadband technology as a vehicle for growth in adoption and can be considered a model for others statewide and across the nation. The award winner recognizes the benefits of using broadband technology and promotes and implements its use in creative and inspiring ways.

Examples: The following are the five awards for nomination:

- **School**

District Broadband Hero Award goes to a Nevada school district that has successfully used broadband technology to enhance the educational capacity of its institutions and/or the community as well as inform students and parents of the value of broadband/technology adoption.

- **Postsecondary**

Institution Broadband Hero Award goes to a Nevada postsecondary institution that has successfully used broadband technology to enhance its educational capacity as well as provide students with an improved educational experience using broadband technology.

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Adoption Broadband Hero Award goes to the individual, organization, company, or local government that successfully implemented programs that lead to the adoption of broadband technologies or the development of digital literacy skills in the community.

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Community Broadband Hero Award goes to the community that has demonstrated outstanding achievement towards the goals of increasing broadband access, adoption, and use in their community.

- **Health Care**

Broadband Hero Award goes to an individual, organization, or company that has successfully implemented a technology based health care platform or network that supports advancements in telemedicine or integration of electronic medical records.

Award Nomination

Nominee: Lyon County School District

Category: School District Hero Award

Address: 25 E. Goldfield Ave, Yerington, NV 89447

E-Mail kgriffin@lyon.k12.nv.us

Telephone 775-463-6800 x387

Reason for Nomination:

Through funding from a Federal BTOP grant, and in excess of \$380,000.00 of in kind services provided, Lyon County School District and local community efforts successfully opened six Public Computing Centers providing parents, students and residents with enriching educational classes, job related support, and experience with computers and broadband technology.

Award Nomination

Nominee: Lyon County School District

Category: School District Broadband Hero

Address: 25 E. Goldfield Ave, Yerington, NV 89447

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Reason for Nomination:

For the past year, Lyon County School District (LCSD) has successfully used broadband technology to enhance the educational capacity of its students, parents and community in increasing the value of broadband and technology adoption.

In 2010, Associated Press named Lyon County one of the most economically stressed counties in the nation, and Lyon County had the highest unemployment rate exceeding 19%. Rural Lyon County residents were underserved with limited access to public computers, having only 26 located in public libraries, which placed them at a disadvantage in comparison to larger more urban communities.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act offered an opportunity for communities to support their underserved public by increasing computer availability by offering the "Stimulus" grant. If awarded, Federal funding would be provided through the Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant.

LCSD applied, was awarded, and was funded in September, 2010. With the BTOP funds, LCSD opened six Public Computer Centers (PCC's) throughout the rural vast community each outfitted with 3Mbps broadband internet connection, color printer, copier, and scanner, computers, monitors, office furniture, Microsoft Office 2010, distance learning and video conference equipment, cameras, lectern, SmartBoard, document camera, and wireless audio system.

Over the three years of the grant LCSD has successfully offered to the local community and tribal reservation friends, educational opportunities for college preparation, volunteer facilitators and a variety of classes for general computer knowledge. Job skill and resume building techniques as well as job fairs have offered and provided in excess of 500 Lyon County residents full time jobs. The economic impact created from the new jobs to the region is in excess of \$32.5 million dollars. PCC's are open every weekday and Saturdays. A large variety of Microsoft Office classes have been taught at the centers, as well as fun Publisher and Creative Writing opportunities. Rural needs have been met as the video conferencing equipment provides connections to events and meetings all over the state and world. Local high school students, for example, connect with 4-H and livestock clubs throughout NV. High School Classes such as a course in Spanish are taught at one school and are viewed at another high school location 26 miles away. This allows one teacher to reach out to students who otherwise would not be able to take a foreign language without this capability. Businesses have conducted an outreach program to all the PCC's explaining how to apply and get jobs at local mines. Attendance was very high.

The students of LCSD use the PCC's throughout the entire school day. Boys and Girls Clubs use the centers during their after school programs and parents and the adults residents of the community use the centers in the evening and weekend hours. Outreach services at the PCC's have offered help with income tax preparation, assistance with unemployment forms, instructions on how to avoid foreclosure, ESL resources classes in English and access to higher education classes.

Lyon County School District was the only school district in the U.S. to be awarded a

BTOP grant. LCSD has earned the U.S. Department of Commerce recognition for proper grant management. U.S. Department of Commerce has also offered to provide LCSD with recommendations for future Federal grant applications.

At the end of the grant funding in September, 2013 the PCC equipment will be turned over to six community recipients including the Walker River Paiute Tribe, Fernley City Hall, and the Boys and Girls Club of Mason Valley, who will make all efforts to sustain and continue with the programs, facilitators, and classes being provided at this time. Students, parents, and the community will continue to use the computers and the video broadcast equipment at the centers and enroll in future classes to enhance their knowledge and skills with computers and technology. This has been a highly successful program for the community within and surrounding Lyon County School District.

Please enjoy the attached Power Point review of the grant history and its future, as well as pictures of the computer centers while in daily use.

(Please attach additional Information to support nomination as deemed appropriate)

Nominator: Kathy Griffin

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Mail or email your nomination no later than 5/16/2013 to:

Connect Nevada

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